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From: "Greg Jones, WD5IVD" <wd5ivd@tapr.org>
Subject: 1998 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference
Cc: "HF SIG list mailing"<hfsig@tapr.org>, " Spread Spectrum "<ss@tapr.org>,
" TAPR/AMSAT DSP "<dsp@tapr.org>,
"APRS SIG list mailing"<aprssig@tapr.org>,
"NETSIG list mailing"<netsig@tapr.org>,
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1998 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference
September 25-27, 1998
Chicago, Illinois (minutes from O'Hare Airport)

Web: <http://www.tapr.org/dcc>

The 1998 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference will be held September 25-27, 1998, in Chicago, Illinois. This year's conference location is the Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows, just minutes from O'Hare Airport.

Not only is the Digital Communications Conference technically stimulating, it is a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual interest in any of the ham digital communications modes. This includes APRS operators, digital networks, software writers, modem designers, and digital satellite enthusiasts. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is for all levels of digital operators -- a must conference to attend to become active on a national level. Now, more than ever, amateur radio needs this great meeting of the minds because it is important that we demonstrate a continued need for the frequency allocations we have by pushing forward and documenting our achievements. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is one of the few ways to record our accomplishments and challenge each other to do more.

A Conference for the Beginner, Too

The conference is not just for the digital expert. This year's conference again provides multiple session tracks for beginning, intermediate, and advanced presentations on selected topics in digital communications. Topics will include APRS, satellite communications, TCP/IP, digital radio, Spread Spectrum, and many others. Come to the conference and hear these topics presented by the experts! Don't miss this opportunity to listen and

talk to others in these areas.

Symposia and Seminars

In addition to the presentation of papers on Saturday, three symposia/seminars will be held. These sessions are provided to allow those with additional time and interest to make the most of the Digital Communications Conference. For those who may have interest in just one symposium or seminar, registration for the conference is not required to attend these activities. This allows maximum flexibility for those who may want to participate during the Digital Communications Conference, but do not have an entire weekend to devote to the event.

The Second APRS National Symposium will be held on Friday and will be moderated by Steve Dimse, K4HG (the developer of javAPRS). It will likely include many APRS software authors, such as Bob Bruninga, WB4APR (the father of APRS), Keith Sproul, WU2Z, Mark Sproul, KB2ICI (the developers of MacAPRS and WinAPRS), Brent Hildebrand, KH2Z (the developer of APRSPLUS), and other nationally-known APRS leaders. Join this group for the afternoon and evening for in-depth discussions and presentations on the current and future status of APRS. This is a unique opportunity to gain insight into this fast-growing digital aspect of amateur operations that combines computers, packet radio, and GPS (Global Positioning System).

Starting late Friday afternoon, a half-day seminar titled "Infrastructureless Technologies in Amateur Radio," presented by Don Lemke, WB9MJN, will cover the pros and cons of DDMA (directivity division multiple access, a proposed infrastructureless technique) versus hubbed (cellular style) and other infrastructure dependent techniques, the basic problem of megabaud rate communications into the ham QTH, and some techniques for channel-area acquisition including full duplex/asynchronous versus simplex/synchronous radio/acquisition concepts. This seminar will start late enough on Friday afternoon to allow those flying that day to attend the seminar.

The Sunday morning seminar will be a combination of two different talks that will make one excellent seminar. The first presentation, by Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD, will focus on the upcoming RUDAK digital communications system scheduled to fly on the AMSAT Phase 3D satellite in the near future. Lyle will discuss features, systems design, integration, and experiments. The goal of the presentation is to zero in on the communications capabilities of RUDAK, the performance to be expected from the 153k6 PSK system, the limitations and capacities of the DSP modems, user requirements for receiving RUDAK, requirements for transmitting to RUDAK, and how amateurs can work to make ground operations a reality once the satellite is in operation. Information on how to submit a proposal for experimental time on RUDAK will be presented. The second presentation will be by Tim Shepard, KD1KY, regarding "Packet Radio Networks with Millions or Billions of Stations." This talk will present concepts and materials that make you think about different possibilities of networking in the future. Both Lyle's and Tim's presentations focus on different aspects of future digital communications possibilities.

Third Annual ARRL and TAPR DCC Student Papers Award

The deadline for the third annual ARRL and TAPR Student papers is past, please think about having students submit next year for the travel awards. TAPR and the ARRL especially welcome papers from full-time students to compete for these student papers award. Two \$500 travel awards may be given, one in each of the following categories: a) best technical/theory-oriented paper by a student, and b) best educational or community-oriented application paper by a student. The paper should relate directly to a wireless digital communication topic (see the guidelines for more information). Papers co-authored by educators or telecommunications professionals are also eligible for this award as long as a student is the first author. The deadline for receipt of finished student paper manuscript is June 20, 1999. Please note that this deadline is different from the general conference paper submission date. For full details and paper guidelines contact TAPR or browse to <http://www.tapr.org/dcc>.

Call for Conference Proceeding Papers

Anyone interested in digital communications is invited to submit a paper for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Presentation at the conference is not required for publication. The primary purpose of the conference is to communicate ideas and techniques regarding digital communications. Papers written in an informal style are welcome, as well as those written to academic standards. If you know of someone who is doing great things with digital communications, be sure to tell them about this! Papers are due by August 15, 1998, and should be submitted to Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111, or via e-mail to lweinberg@arrl.org. The paper submission guidelines are available on-line (<http://www.tapr.org/dcc>).

Local/International Co-Host

The 1998 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference will be co-hosted by Chicago Amateur Packet Radio Association (CAPRA). CAPRA is one of the oldest packet radio groups in the US. It focuses on education about amateur packet radio, coordination of joint efforts of hams interested in packet radio, and technical and equipment support for a sound packet network in the Chicago area. They have had high-speed packet networks operational since the mid-1980s. Visit the CAPRA Web site at <http://www.imaxx.net/capra> for more information.

PRUG (Packet Radio User Group of Japan) will be the first International co-host of the ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference. The conference is proud to welcome PRUG as part of the conference. PRUG will be hosting an informal social Friday evening after the seminar and

symposium are completed. Visit <http://www.prug.or.jp> for more information about the organization.

What can you expect during the 1998 ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference?

- * A full day of papers, breakout sessions, and selected topics on Saturday for the beginner to advanced amateur digital enthusiast.
- * Three seminars/symposia
 - Friday (1 PM)
 - Second Annual APRS National Symposium, moderated by Steve Dimse, K4HG
 - Friday (3 PM)
 - Infrastructure Technologies in Amateur Radio conducted by Don Lemke, WB9MJN
 - Sunday (8:30 AM)
 - RUDAK Future Operations and Experimentations by Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD
 - Packet Radio Networks with Millions or Billions of Stations by Tim Shepard, KD1KY
- * Third Annual Student Paper Awards.
- * TAPR Membership Meeting
- * A banquet with special guest speaker Steve Roberts, N4RVE, of Nomadic Research Labs. Creator of the Winnebiko and Behemoth high-tech recumbent bicycles. His current project is focused on Microship technology (<http://www.microship.com/>).
- * SIGs (Special Interest Groups) get-togethers on Saturday, following the banquet
- * Informal get-togethers throughout the weekend
- * A facility that is perfect for this type of conference
- * Informal engineering discussions/demonstration areas
- * Motorola Museum located in the area.
- * An event at which the most important new developments in amateur digital communications are announced
- * Digital 'movers and shakers' from all over the world in attendance

Conclusion

If you have attended a Digital Communications Conference in the past, remember how much fun it was discussing the latest developments into the wee hours! If you have never been to a Digital Communications Conference, then make your plans now to attend and find out how much fun they can be.

There are few activities where your participation can be so much fun and so important! You will be able to get together with colleagues from all over the world and bring each other up to date on your latest work. Experience all this and more for an unforgettable weekend of ham radio and digital communications. Make your travel and lodging arrangements now. We hope to see you at the ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, September 25-27!

Full information on the conference and hotel information can be obtained by contacting Tucson Amateur Packet Radio, 8987-309 E. Tanque Verde Road #337, Tucson, AZ 85749-9399, phone 940-383-0000, fax 940-566-2544, e-mail tapr@tapr.org, browse www.tapr.org/dcc.

Sincerely,

Steve Ford, WB8IMY, ARRL Conference Co-Chair
Greg Jones, WD5IVD, TAPR Conference Co-Chair
Steve Stroh, N8GNJ, Conference Manager
Mark J. Thompson, WB9QZB, Local Host Liaison
Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW, Local Host Liaison

Note: If you need conference handouts or flyers for ham club meetings, contact TAPR to get what you need!

Hotel Information

Conference presentations, meetings, and seminars will be held at the Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows. Special DCC rooms rates are \$85 per night. When making reservations with the hotel, be sure to indicate you are attending the ARRL and TAPR DCC in order to get the discount. It is highly recommended that you book your room prior to arriving. A block of 75 rooms is reserved until August 31, 1998. After the 75 rooms are booked, rooms will only be available in nearby hotels, so be sure to book your rooms early! The hotel provides transportation to and from O'Hare Airport. Please contact the hotel to arrange specific transportation needs.

Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows (conference hotel)
3405 Algonquin Rd
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone 847-259-5000, fax 847-259-0597

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